

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Before paragraph [1], insert:

Background of the Invention

[1] The invention relates to an espresso machine with an infusion piston displaceable inside an infusion cylinder, ~~as disclosed in the preamble to claim 1.~~

Before paragraph [5], insert:

Summary of the Invention

[8] This object is solved for an espresso machine of the aforementioned type with the features listed ~~in the characterizing section of claim 1~~ below.

[11] ~~Claim 2 discloses a~~ A particularly compact, reliable and structurally uncomplicated arrangement of a compression spring that acts upon the infusion piston is disclosed in this specification.

[12] ~~According to claim 3, espresso~~ Espresso machines with a bottom part secured to the housing and a top part that can rotate relative to the bottom part along a circular track of 360°

can be designed without problem to include the intended, automatic displacement of the infusion piston in the infusion cylinder during the infusion operation. The infusion piston as component of the upper part can be lowered into and removed from the infusion chamber in an angular position of the upper part and with the aid of a lowering lever. An upward and downward movement of a lifting piston with perforated bottom is forcibly controlled through the rotational movement of the upper part. The lifting piston can be raised in the lower part of the infusion chamber to the upper edge of the infusion chamber where a cake formed with coffee grounds can be removed to the side with a removal element. This type of design is shown in detail in the above-mentioned EP 0 756 842 B1. As a result, the advantages of an uncomplicated, operationally safe control mechanism can be utilized, wherein this control mechanism does not need to be expanded for the infusion piston movement during the infusion operation.

Before paragraph [13], insert:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Before paragraph [14], insert:

Detailed Description of Embodiments of the Invention

[16] A tubular infusion water inlet 9 is connected to a flexible water hose 10, which leads to an infusion water pump ~~not shown herein~~ 15. The infusion water inlet is designed as tube-shaped piston rod, which is positioned displaceable inside an infusion cylinder support 11.

The infusion water inlet changes over to a bore in the infusion piston 2, which is connected with a line carrying infusion water to the infusion chamber 6 below the water distributor 4.

Please replace any pending Abstract with the following Abstract:

An espresso machine is provided with an infusion piston displaceable inside an infusion cylinder. The infusion piston is force-connected to a spring and to a device for activating the infusion piston and, in a first position, tightly encloses ground coffee inside an infusion chamber of the infusion cylinder between itself and an outlet sieve. A pressurized water inlet is connected to the infusion chamber, the infusion piston is automatically pushed by the pressure of the infusion water flowing into the infusion cylinder and counter to a spring force to a second predetermined position, thereby expanding the infusion chamber, whereupon during a pressure drop inside the infusion chamber the infusion piston is returned automatically to the first position. The infusion piston can essentially be displaced proportional to a pressure increase inside the infusion chamber, caused by the infusion water flowing in, until it reaches a nominal opening pressure for a frothing valve that closes off the infusion chamber in a downstream direction.